United Nations E/CN.3/2004/1

Economic and Social Council

eneral
2 December 2003

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-fifth session
2-5 March 2004
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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* E/CN.3/2004/1.

03-61458 (E) 020104

5. Natural resources and environment statistics.

6. Activities not classified by field:

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   (f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

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   (i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

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7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session (New York, 4-7 March 2003).[1] Some changes have been made, in consultation with the officers of the Commission. The proposed draft organization of work is before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2004/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2004/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2004/CRP.1)

3. **Demographic and social statistics**

(a) **Social statistics (programme review)**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, describing the actions to be carried out in response to the recommendations of expert group meetings on setting the scope of social statistics (New York, 6-9 May 2003) and to review the United Nations Demographic Yearbook system (New York, 10-14 November 2003). The Commission may wish to express its views on the proposed work programme for social statistics, 2004-2014.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2004/2)

(b) **Siena Group for Social Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics which reviews major activities undertaken by the Siena Group and provides an overview of the strategic goals and priority areas to be addressed by the Siena Group as part of its mission to promote and coordinate international cooperation in the area of social statistics. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Siena Group and comment on the direction of its future work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Siena Group (E/CN.3/2004/3)

(c) **Health statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on its review of the coordination among international organizations and between international organizations and national statistical offices in the production and dissemination of health statistics. The Commission may wish to comment on actions recommended by the Friends of the Chair for improving such coordination.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on health statistics (E/CN.3/2004/4)

(d) **Human settlement statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report prepared by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) describing its work programme, including the new monitoring of urban inequities programme and the new "GIS to

1000 cities" programme. The Commission may wish to endorse the UN-Habitat work programme, in particular its new work programmes and initiatives.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of UN-Habitat (E/CN.3/2004/5)

(e) Statistics of drugs and drug use

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the statistics of drugs and drug use. The Commission may wish to express its views on the activities and plans in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.3/2004/6)

(f) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

The Commission will have before it the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation, summarizing the activities of the Paris Group during 2003. The main event was a two-day meeting held in London in September 2003, which discussed the theme "Working time measurement". A paper summarizing the discussions and recommendations was submitted to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians at its seventeenth session, held in Geneva from 24 November to 3 December 2003.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group (E/CN.3/2004/7)

(g) Poverty statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics, which describes the project initiated by the United Nations Statistics Division for the preparation of a handbook on poverty measurement. The report provides details on the broad consultative process put into place to implement the project; the formation of a steering committee to oversee the preparation of the handbook; collaboration with the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics; the proposal to hold several regional workshops; and the proposal to hold an expert group meeting in New York to conduct a comprehensive review of the first draft of the handbook. The report also contains the suggested annotated outline of the publication and the project web site. The Commission may wish to express its views on the project, in particular on the provisional annotated outline of the handbook and on the proposed activities.

The Commission will have before it the report of the Rio Group on its recent meetings and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Rio Group.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2004/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group (E/CN.3/2004/9)

4. Economic statistics

(a) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA). The report includes a detailed project document with the work programme for the updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA). It outlines the agenda, decision-making process, governance, timetable, resource implications and other aspects of the SNA updating project to be completed by 2008. The report also provides information on the assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA. The Commission may wish to express its views on the proposed project document of the SNA updating and on the progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of ISWGNA (E/CN.3/2004/10)

(b) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. The report will summarize the work accomplished by the Voorburg Group and outline future activities. The Commission may wish to comment on the completed work and proposed future plans of the Voorburg Group.

The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) containing information on work undertaken internationally and other recent developments in the field of services statistics. The Commission may wish to review progress and comment on future direction of work in services statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group (E/CN.3/2004/11)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OECD (E/CN.3/2004/12)

(c) Tourism statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Tourism Organization providing an update on recent developments in tourism statistics and future plans. The report describes activities undertaken for the promotion and implementation of standards in tourism statistics. The Commission may wish to comment on the progress in the field of tourism statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Trade Organization (E/CN.3/2004/13)

(d) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on recent developments and progress in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme at the global level. The Commission may wish to review the ongoing activities and comment on future plans.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank (E/CN.3/2004/14)

(e) Statistics of science and technology

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OECD which describes current work in science and technology statistics and priorities for future activities and developments in the medium and long terms. It includes a brief description of the conclusions of the international consultation carried out by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in order to identify priorities for data production, as well as an update of the activities carried out by OECD and its future plans.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of UNESCO and OECD (E/CN.3/2004/15)

(f) Information and communication technologies statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which describes developments in the indicators used to measure access to information and communication technologies (ICT). The report includes recommendations for enhancing the availability of ICT access indicators, a list of desired indicators and a new index for measuring access to ICT. The report also describes the relation between ICT indicators and the Millennium Development Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of ITU (E/CN.3/2004/16)

(g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames

The Commission will have before it a report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames providing an update on its recent meetings, completed activities and proposed future plans. The Commission may wish to comment on the work undertaken and future plans of the Round Table.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table (E/CN.3/2004/17)

(h) **Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics providing an update on its recent meetings, activities and planned outputs. The Commission may wish to comment on the completed work and proposed future plans of the Delhi Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group (E/CN.3/2004/18)

5. **Natural resources and environment statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting providing an update on its recent meetings, activities and other outputs. The Commission may wish to comment on the work and proposed future plans of the London Group.

The Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session[2] agreed that the United Nations Statistics Division should set up an inter-agency working group on environment statistics, with a special focus on the development and harmonization of methods, concepts and standards, coordination of data collection, and training. The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-agency Working Group of Environment Statistics on its first meeting involving its terms of reference and work programme for the years 2004-2005.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group (E/CN.3/2004/19)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-agency Working Group (E/CN.3/2004/20)

6. **Activities not classified by field**

(a) **Implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics**

The Commission will have before it a report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics, which was prepared on the request of the Commission at its thirty-fourth session.[3] The report describes the results of a global survey on the implementation of the fundamental principles undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2004/21)

(b) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications providing information on recent developments, including the status of revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification. The Commission may wish to comment on the progress in the field of international statistical classifications.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2004/22)

(c) Indicators

The Secretariat will report on ongoing work on statistical standards for and compilation of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the international and national levels. International work is undertaken through an inter-agency expert group on Millennium Development Goals indicators, which meets at least once a year to review methods, standards and available data for the agreed indicators, and which discusses draft texts on progress in achieving each of the quantifiable goals and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see A/56/326) on poverty eradication, development and environment. This material is the basis for the Secretary-General's annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration (see A/58/323). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the lead agency for assisting countries in the review and adaptation of national goals, targets and indicators related to the Declaration through support for country reports. It is also working with the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, other competent agencies and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) on the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation with countries to improve their ongoing statistical programmes, which provide basic data for the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Advisory Committee on Indicators established by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-third session. The note describes the activities undertaken by the Committee, whose main activities during its first year of work involved analysing divergences between the Friends of the Chair indicators framework (see E/CN.3/2002/26) and the Millennium Development Goals indicators (see A/56/326), observing new indicators in response to recent and future United Nations conferences and summits, and verifying data availability to comply with existing indicators. The Commission may wish to comment on the Committee's work and provide guidance for its future work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the ongoing work on statistical standards and compilation of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the international and national levels (E/CN.3/2004/23)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Advisory Committee (E/CN.3/2004/24)

(d) Statistical capacity-building

In its annual report to the Commission, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century provides a brief outline of its progress to date and future work programme. The Commission may wish to:

(a) Note the progress of PARIS 21 to date;

(b) Comment on its future direction and work programme for 2004-2006.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Steering Committee of the PARIS 21 initiative (E/CN.3/2004/25)

(e) Presentation of statistical data and metadata

The Commission will have before it a report describing a proposal for discussion by the Commission on the preparation of a manual outlining guidelines and recommended best practices for the presentation of statistical data and metadata disseminated by national agencies and international organizations on various dissemination media. The necessity for such a manual to consolidate existing standards and develop new recommendations, where necessary, stems from the need to further improve data quality (especially interpretability and coherence) and to minimize the burden of reporting data and metadata to international organizations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OECD (E/CN.3/2004/26)

(f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it a report on the results achieved by the task force created in 2001 by the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division to establish standards on data and metadata exchange. The task force now comprises those six international bodies plus the World Bank. The report will focus on the results achieved by the four main projects carried out over the last two years: (a) a case study (based on external debt statistics) to investigate the practical ways in which emerging technologies can be used to facilitate data and metadata collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics; (b) the development of a metadata vocabulary; (c) standards for batch time series data exchange; and (d) standards for metadata repositories. The Commission may wish to comment on the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the task force (E/CN.3/2004/27)

(g) Coordination of ongoing methodological work

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division on the contents and the status of the Division's web site on

methodological work. This web site includes both current and completed projects. The Commission is invited to express its views on the web site.

(h) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and of the Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission. The Commission may wish to decide upon any action that may be necessary.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2004/28)

(i) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held its first session in New York on 3 March 2003 and its second session in Geneva from 8 to 10 September 2003. The Commission will have before it the report on both sessions of the Committee. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee on its first and second sessions (E/CN.3/2004/29)

(j) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current work and plans and priorities. It will also have before it for approval the proposed list of expert group meetings and workshops to be convened by the Division in 2004.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed list of expert group meetings and workshops to be convened by the Division in 2004 (E/CN.3/2004/30)

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session.

In addition, in accordance with a request by the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2004-2007.

Also, following the call of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51) for the promotion of greater harmonization and coordination in the work of its functional commissions, the Commission will have before it a note summarizing the outcome of the eleventh session of the Commission for Sustainable Development, focusing on the multi-year programme of work adopted at that session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2004/L.2)

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2004/31)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Commission for Sustainable Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2004/32)

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-fifth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2004/L.__)

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2003/24), chap. I.A.

[2] Ibid., chap. IV, para. 2 (h).

[3] Ibid., chap. I.A.